

I am a General Class operator, KA7QEK.

I am a retired Senior Member of Technical Staff. My primary interest, in design, was Human Engineering;
(also known as Ergonomics).

1. I am strongly in favor of keeping the 5-WPM requirement.
2. If the 5-WPM is eliminated from the regular examinations, 5-WPM should be an absolute safety requirement for operating mobile while moving in a vehicle!

OBSERVATIONS & RATIONAL:

I used to teach both a 5-WPM code class, and a Sailing Class at an overseas Tropical US military base.

I noticed that students who had a hard time with the code, also had a hard time learning to, or failed, sailing.

In sailing, and in code, the student/operator has to mentally keep track of more than one thing at a time -- like a computer can do only one thing at a time, but it time-shares its tasks so that all tasks get done in a timely manner.

In sailing, the helmsman must keep track of Compass course, Wind direction, Other watercraft, Water depth, Channel markers, etc. their attention must be constantly focusing and refocusing --
Like driving a car in heavy traffic with a cell phone, or radio.

As I have observed, aptitude for 5-WPM code predicts aptitude for sailing.

THIS SUGGESTS THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACCIDENTS WHILE DRIVING
AND USING CELL PHONES WOULD HAVE TROUBLE LEARNING 5-WPM CODE.

HAM RADIO OPERATORS USE MOBILE RADIOS, AND HAVE VERY FEW
HAM-RADIO-RELATED ACCIDENTS.

To reiterate, 5-WPM code should be required, especially for mobile operation.